

The logo for the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) features the letters "AICC" in a large, blue, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect.

Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



Morning Highlights

June 23, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-17
Time: 11:00 a.m.

Contact:
Public Affairs (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

Wildland Fire Update

Four new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Monday.

In the western half of Alaska, four smokejumpers put out a .1 acre fire while a helicopter with firefighters contained a .25 acre grass fire. In the Mat-Su, State and local firefighters extinguished a fire along a DOT right of way.

Near Fairbanks, the Nenana Ridge prescribed burn required a response from Alaska Fire Service and Alaska Division of Forestry personnel, due to erratic winds which caused a new start. The start occurred on the second research site, Unit B, directly next to Unit A which was burned last week. Not wanting to lose all the efforts that have gone into the site for research, helicopters, air attack, and two air tankers were assigned. Of the 288 acres in Unit B, only about 5 acres were burned, including an un-determined number of research plots. Located in the Tanana Valley State Forest, the research site does not pose a concern to the nearest residents, roughly 10 miles away. Three fire crews are at the site.

Six fires are staffed statewide. A map of fire locations may be found at:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>.

Nenana Ridge	74 personnel	25 acres (new)
Kidney	4 personnel	.3 acres (new)
Blind River	41 personnel	118 acres
Winter Trail	122 personnel	2,309 acres
Bear Creek	4 personnel	3,850 acres
Slate Creek	3 personnel	641.8 acres

So far this year, 303 fires have burned 288,541 acres statewide. Last year at this time, 222 fires had burned only a total of 5,125 acres. For information about the individual fires statewide please visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>.

Protect Yourself From Wildland Fires!

Weather conditions statewide have moderated fire activity, but lightning-caused fires continue to start. This is the time of year to be extra vigilant about preparing your home and property for wildland fire. If you haven't already done so, clear dead grass and leaves away from your home and remove roof debris. Enclose openings that provide entry for blowing embers. You should also consider clearing out vegetation on the ground, around the perimeter of your home site, and removing the bottom limbs of spruce. For more information, visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/admin/awfcg/D.%20Brochures%20and%20Educational%20Materials/Firewise%20Alaska.pdf>

Smoke

Residents of Alaska may at times smell smoke, depending on wind direction and fire activity. Several lightning-caused fires throughout the state are burning in remote areas and will continue until enough precipitation is received later in the summer to extinguish them. For information about how you can protect yourself from smoke, please visit: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>

Burn Permits

Please contact your local Division of Forestry Office for permitted burn information.

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/flash/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildla nd%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Maggie Rogers (Alaska Division of Forestry) and Doug Stockdale (BLM Alaska Fire Service).

###